

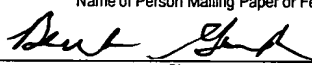


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/817,833  
Applicant(s): Kazuhiko YUKAMA (Deceased) and Kazumi YUKAWA  
(Legal Representative)  
For: AN AUTOFOCUS TECHNIQUE FOR A DIGITAL CAMERA  
Confirmation No.: 7882  
Customer No.: 24367  
Docket No.: 15162/03380  
Filed: March 26, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 2612  
Examiner: Luong Trung Nguyen

**MAIL STOP RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DERRICK GORDON
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Signature
APRIL 13, 2006
Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is a Preliminary Amendment, which is being submitted concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Office Action dated October 19, 2005, which provides for a response period ending January 19, 2006.

A Petition for Extension of Time, to extend the response period for the Office Action, for three additional months to April 19, 2006, is being filed concurrently.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.